

SENATE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 WHEREAS, in the year 2011, heavy rainfall and snowmelt along
2 the Missouri River combined with intentional releases of
3 impounded water by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers caused
4 unprecedented amounts of water flow on the river, which led to
5 breached levees and widespread flooding for the states along the
6 river, including Missouri; and

7 WHEREAS, the extensive flooding destroyed many homes, farms,
8 and businesses, severely impacting the livelihoods of thousands
9 of Missourians, who, in addition to suffering the emotional toll
10 of the disaster, are also suffering a heavy economic burden to
11 repair the devastated land and infrastructure; and

12 WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is charged with
13 management of the Missouri River for eight congressionally-
14 authorized purposes, one of which is flood control; and

15 WHEREAS, the Army Corps of Engineers has worked extensively
16 for numerous years to develop the Missouri River Master Manual to
17 guide its management of the river which seeks to balance the
18 competing interests of the eight authorized purposes; and

19 WHEREAS, it is evident that due to the immediate, large-
20 scale and potentially life-threatening impacts upon public health
21 and safety caused by flooding, the authorized purpose of flood
22 control must have the utmost importance in any planning
23 activities on the part of the Army Corps; and

24 WHEREAS, as a result of the widespread devastation caused by

1 the flood events of 2011, an independent technical review panel
2 was formed to evaluate the Army Corps' river management
3 performance and, specifically, its performance with regard to its
4 responsibility to protect public health and safety through flood
5 control; and

6 WHEREAS, the independent technical review panel issued its
7 findings and recommendations in December 2011 and concluded that
8 while the Army Corps may have acted in accordance with the Master
9 Manual, the Master Manual itself may not be appropriately
10 flexible or responsive to adequately protect the public from
11 flooding in the case of extreme weather events such as those
12 experienced in 2011; and

13 WHEREAS, the panel's report further concluded that the Army
14 Corps' Master Manual should not regard extreme weather events
15 such as the precipitation in 2011 as rare, isolated events, but
16 rather as part of a potential climatic pattern for which the Army
17 Corps must be continuously prepared to address; and

18 WHEREAS, understanding that the prediction of future weather
19 patterns is not an exact science, the Army Corps must allow
20 greater flexibility in its management activities of reservoir
21 storage and spring rise to anticipate and respond to higher than
22 expected snow and rainfall in the river basin so as to prevent
23 future catastrophic flooding events like that which occurred in
24 2011 and to position the Army Corps to be successful in
25 accomplishing its flood control duties and protecting the public
26 from disasters that could have been prevented:

27 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the
28 Missouri Senate, Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular

1 Session, the House of Representatives concurring therein, hereby
2 urge the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3 to accept the recommendations of the independent technical review
4 panel in order to improve its flood protection operations and
5 conduct its river management activities in proper accordance with
6 the Corps' mandated responsibility to protect life and property
7 through flood control actions; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
9 be urged to continually place the utmost priority on flood
10 control in any future annual operating plans with the goal of
11 allowing the Army Corps to be able to successfully react and
12 respond to unpredictable weather and extreme weather events so as
13 to prevent future flooding disasters; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Missouri
15 Senate be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this
16 resolution for the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of
17 Engineers and the members of the Missouri Congressional
18 delegation.